

# Big River Journey Spring 2012

## What is Big River Journey?

Big River Journey (BRJ) provides river and classroom experiences that connect 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students with the science and heritage of the Mississippi River. BRJ culminates with a riverboat excursion on the Mississippi River featuring hands-on learning stations.

Teachers who sign up for Big River Journey incorporate river-themed activities into their classroom. Pre- and post-trip classroom activities are selected by each teacher from many activity options presented in advance teacher workshops. Big River Journey is aligned with Minnesota Academic Standards.

## Field trip description

Big River Journey field trips feature staffed learning stations with hands-on activities on the following topics (subject to change):

- Aquatic insects & water quality
- River geology
- River ecosystems
- River birds
- Watershed stewardship
- Riverboats & piloting
- Confluence archaeology\*
- Floodplain forest\*
- Soldier hike\*

\* land-based experiences on one-way trips only

Trips are designed for up to 120 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students.

## Field trip location

Mississippi River aboard the Anson Northrup riverboat, traveling between Padelford Landing (Harriet Island, St. Paul) and Fort Snelling State Park.

## Field trip dates & times

May 1-4, 7-10, and 14-17, 2012. Boat boards at 9:30 a.m. or 11:45 a.m.

- **May 1- 4 trips** are round trips from Harriet Island, St. Paul. Board at 9:30 (return 11:30) or 11:45 (return 1:45).
- **May 7-10 & 14-17 trips** are one-way trips that incorporate a learning experience at Fort Snelling State Park (not "Historic Fort Snelling") as follows:  
**Either:**
  - \* **Board paddleboat at 9:30 at Harriet Island, St. Paul.** Disembark at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) for a session with staff from FSSP or other BRJ partner. Time for a brown bag lunch will be included. The FSSP session will conclude at 1:00 p.m. Your buses will pick up students at the FSSP Visitor Center.

**Or...**

\* **Arrive at Fort Snelling State Park (FSSP) Visitor Center at 10:00** for a land-based session with state park or other partner staff and time for a brown bag lunch. **Paddleboat departure is at 12:00 noon** from FSSP. The trip concludes at 1:45 p.m. at Padelford Landing, Harriet Island, St. Paul, where your return buses will load your students.

## Participation requirements

### 1) Attend a Big River Workshop.

Attendance is **required** of all teachers unless previously attended in past ten years. The Advanced Workshop is recommended for experienced BRJ teachers.

#### **Basic Workshop:**

At Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (enter park from Post Road, SW of airport)

- **Thur, Feb 9, 2012** (9:00-3:30); or
- **Sat, Feb 11, 2012** (8:30-1:00)

At the basic workshop teachers will:

- participate in demonstrations of supporting classroom activities
- receive Teacher's Guide of thematic Mississippi River resource materials
- get oriented to Big River Journey field trip logistics, and introduced to other river-related learning opportunities
- receive Continuing Education certificate

#### **Advanced Workshop:**

At Fort Snelling State Park Visitor Center (enter park from Post Road, SW of airport)

- **Thur, Feb 16, 2012** (9:00-3:30)

At the advanced workshop teachers will:

- Learn to conduct effective service learning
- Explore historical & art-based activities
- Hear from other teachers about their successful extensions of BRJ activities
- Share your experience with other teachers
- receive Continuing Education certificate

#### **Workshop registration:**

Call Mississippi National River and Recreation Area at 651-293-8414 (Brian Goodspeed).

### **Workshop cost (donation):**

\$20/person or \$30/school (non-refundable) is requested to help defray expenses. Make check to "Mississippi National River & Recreation Area"; write "BRJ workshop donation" on the memo line. Send to:

*Attn: Brian Goodspeed  
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area  
111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105  
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256*

### 2) Preparation & follow-up:

- prepare students for the field trip by conducting science and thematic classroom activities about the Mississippi River (resources provided at workshop)
- organize classes into cooperative groups before trip
- assign groups to a specific learning station rotation (details at workshop)
- complete follow-up activities such as writing, art, and service learning to reinforce and extend field trip learning
- complete and return evaluations

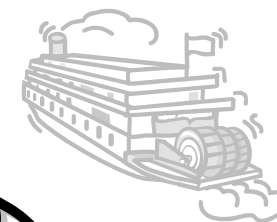
## Field trip fee: \$8.93\*/student

The Padelford Packet Boat Co. handles field trip payments and will contact you for billing if your school is scheduled for a trip.

### **Scholarship rate: \$3.93\*/student**

Schools with at least 50% participation in the free-and-reduced lunch program or 50% students of color qualify. Scholarship eligibility must be verified in writing by your principal. Schools arrange and pay for their own buses. For further information: Brian Goodspeed at 651-293-8414 .

*\* Includes port fee*



# Big River Journey 2012

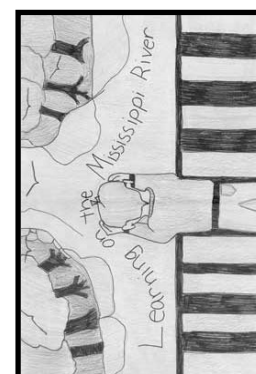
National & state award-winning  
**Mississippi River**  
**field trips**  
since 1996

grades: 4-6

**Coordinated by**  
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area  
(National Park Service)  
in cooperation with the  
Padelford Packet Boat Co.

**Program partners**  
Center for Global Environmental Education  
Friends of the Mississippi River  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Historical Society  
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area  
Mississippi River Fund  
Padelford Packet Boat Co.  
St. Paul Public Schools  
Science Museum of Minnesota

[www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers](http://www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers)



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National Park Service



## BIG RIVER JOURNEY 2012 RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

Selections for Big River Journey field trips are made through a drawing that determines scheduling order. To submit your school's request (*one request per school please*) fax or send this completed form so we receive it by **October 15, 2011**.

School \_\_\_\_\_ Number of students (limits: 120/trip, 240/school) \_\_\_\_\_  
School address \_\_\_\_\_ City, state, zip code \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_ Contact email \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_ Grade(s) (circle): 4 5 6  
Best time to contact \_\_\_\_\_

Teachers from my school will attend the following Big River Workshop (must fill in teachers' names, or check below):

Thur, Feb 9, 2012 (9:00-3:30) Teachers who will attend: \_\_\_\_\_  
Sat, Feb 11, 2012 (8:30-1:00) Teachers who will attend: \_\_\_\_\_  
Thur, Feb 16, 2012 (9:00-3:30) **for experienced BRJ teachers:** \_\_\_\_\_  
I/we have attended workshop previously (in past 10 years): \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: All BRJ teachers must attend the workshop. If all have attended previously, check here: \_\_\_\_\_

**Are you requesting a scholarship** (note requirements elsewhere in flyer)? YES / NO

**Reservation Scheduling:** Schools will be called in the order drawn beginning October 17 for scheduling. If you are not reached, a message will be left (if possible), and the next school will be contacted. Your prompt response will ensure best selection of trip date/time. Please be patient as the process takes some weeks. At the completion of scheduling, non-selected schools will be contacted about other river-based learning opportunities.

**Fax or send this form (or a copy) to:**  
(must be received by Oct 15, 2011)

**Big River Journey Reservations**  
**Mississippi National River & Recreation Area**  
**111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105**  
**St. Paul, MN 55101-1256**  
**Fax: 651-290-3815**

**For further information:** Call Brian Goodspeed at 651-293-8414  
or visit our website at [www.nps.gov/miss](http://www.nps.gov/miss) or [www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers/brjindex.htm](http://www.nps.gov/miss/forteachers/brjindex.htm).